United States Attorney Richard B. Roper Northern District of Texas

CONTACT: KATHY COLVIN PHONE: (214) 659-8600

FAX: (214) 767-2898

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FEDERAL INDICTMENT CHARGES SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, MAN WITH PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Eleven-Count Indictment Also Charges Receipt and Possession of Child Pornography, Possession of Child Obscenity

LUBBOCK, Tx. — U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper, of the Northern District of Texas, announced that a federal grand jury in Lubbock, Texas, returned an indictment on Wednesday charging San Angelo, Texas, resident David Allen Crawford with four counts of receipt of child pornography, two counts of receipt of child obscenity, one count of possession of child pornography, and four counts of production of child pornography.

Crawford was arrested yesterday and appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Philip R. Lane to make his initial appearance on the charges. Crawford remains in federal custody pending the setting of a detention hearing to determine whether he should be released on pretrial bond.

An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty. However, if convicted on all counts, David Allen Crawford, 43, faces a maximum statutory sentence of 250 years in prison and a \$2.75 million fine.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

U.S. Attorney Roper commended the investigative efforts of Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven M. Sucsy of the Lubbock, Texas, U.S. Attorney's Office.

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